

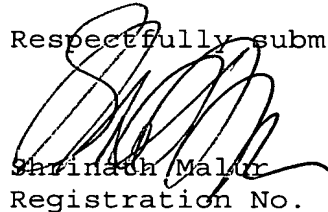
REMARKS

Claim 21 has been amended. Claims 4-13 have been allowed. No claims have been amended or added. Accordingly, claims 4-13 and 21-28 are currently pending in the application.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for conducting an interview with the undersigned on August 13, 2004. Claim 21 has been amended as discussed during the interview. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone with any questions in order to expedite the prosecution of this application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Shrinath Malur  
Registration No. 34,663  
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR  
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-1120  
Date: August 13, 2004